

**Great Bend Economic Development**

3111 10<sup>th</sup> Street

Great Bend, KS 67530

(620) 796-2407

[marketing@gbedinc.com](mailto:marketing@gbedinc.com)

[www.gbedinc.com](http://www.gbedinc.com)



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**For Immediate Release:**

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## Great Bend Economic Development Announces Groundbreaking for the Advancing Barton County Childcare Center

GREAT BEND, KS – Great Bend Economic Development (GBED) is proud to announce the groundbreaking for Advancing Barton County Childcare (ABCC) daycare center will be on July 20th at 10 am at Farmer’s Plaza on the corner of 10th Street and K-96 Highway. This significant milestone marks the beginning of a transformative project that aims to address the growing need for childcare capacity in our community.

Advancing Barton County Childcare, established by Great Bend Economic Development, has taken on the crucial task of securing funding and constructing a state-of-the-art group daycare center in Great Bend, designed to accommodate up to 59 children. Recognizing the pressing need for reliable and accessible childcare services, this 6,500 square-foot facility is envisioned as the first of several daycares to be built across Barton County.

In addition to the groundbreaking ceremony scheduled for July 20th, we are pleased to share that progress continues to be made on ABCC's inaugural facility. The rigorous process of selecting a site director is currently underway, ensuring that a qualified and dedicated professional will lead the center's operations. Moreover, after careful consideration, Icon Structures has been selected as the project's construction manager at risk, ensuring the highest standards of quality and efficiency in the construction process.

The Advancing Barton County Childcare initiative represents a vital investment in the well-being and future of our community. By providing a nurturing and safe environment for children, ABCC aims to support working parents and contribute to the economic growth of Barton County. The establishment of this daycare center serves as a testament to our commitment to creating a family-friendly community that prioritizes the needs of all its residents.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the individuals, organizations, and stakeholders who have supported this initiative. Their dedication and commitment to improving the availability and accessibility of quality childcare services in Barton County are invaluable. We look forward to

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celebrating the groundbreaking ceremony on July 20th and witnessing the positive impact ABCC will have on the lives of children and families in our community.

**About GBED (Great Bend Economic Development):**

*The Great Bend Economic Development, Inc. is a public/private partnership focusing on the economic development efforts in Barton County, KS. Our mission is to improve the economic quality of life for working families in our community. We do this by creating jobs, through retention, recruitment, and expansion of businesses, strengthening the workforce through recruitment, education and training, improving and increasing the number of living wage jobs, and expanding the tax base through increase capital investment. For more information about GBED visit: [www.qbedinc.com](http://www.qbedinc.com), call 620-796-2407. Sara Arnberger, President of Great Bend Economic Development, Inc., can be reached via email at [director@qbedinc.com](mailto:director@qbedinc.com).*

**About ABCC (Advancing Barton County Childcare):**

*Advancing Barton County Childcare, Inc.'s mission is to provide quality, reliable and sustainable childcare solutions to the citizens of Barton County. This organization was born from conversations with our businesses where they expressed that lack of childcare was a major barrier to hiring employees. As a partner of Great Bend Economic Development, we always strive to keep our businesses informed and at the table. For questions about ABCC, Inc., our partnership with GBED, please reach out online: [www.qbedinc.com/abcc](http://www.qbedinc.com/abcc), call 620-796-2407, or email Sara Arnberger, President of Great Bend Economic Development, Inc., at [director@qbedinc.com](mailto:director@qbedinc.com).*

